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June 7, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *J. Fielding ms*
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (VIVITROL)**

On December 13, 2011, your Board approved to extend the use of medication assisted treatment, known as Vivitrol, for clients with alcohol and opiate addictions. Your Board additionally instructed the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH) to report back in 12 months on the efficacy of Vivitrol and recommendations for its expanded use in high-risk populations. The January 2013 report to your Board indicated that we would provide your Board with the results of the Vivitrol study. This report contains the preliminary results.

Findings

The Los Angeles County Evaluation System (LACES) study reflects the Phase II follow-up period for Vivitrol clients from February 2012 to February 2013. The study examined whether clients can maintain sobriety once they are no longer receiving Vivitrol injections. It is important to note that this is an evaluative study and not a clinical trial. Random assignment was not used to determine whether a client would receive the Vivitrol medication or a placebo.

Preliminary data from the study suggest that clients with at least one dose of Vivitrol report significant decreases in an urge to drink alcohol or the use of opioids. Results appear to suggest that Vivitrol clients' urges to drink/use remain low and that there is little danger of relapse at 30 and 60 days after their final Vivitrol injection. Of the 244 Vivitrol clients in the 30 day and 60 day follow-up groups, 212 clients (87%) reported a lower urge to drink/use and appeared to be in little danger of relapse at 30 and 60 days after their final Vivitrol injection. This decrease in urges to drink/use may indicate a continued reduction in urges to drink/use, or result in a significant delay in the return of urges after the medication is no longer administered. Additionally, preliminary analysis suggests that Vivitrol may decrease the number of days using alcohol and/or opioids. It also appears that the clients who received Vivitrol are able to maintain the reduction in days used or intoxicated after the medication is no longer administered.

Future analyses of the study will explore treatment outcomes among those receiving Vivitrol compared to similar clients who are not receiving Vivitrol.

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Recommendations for Vivitrol Expansion

DPH continues to partner with other organizations to increase the availability of Vivitrol for Los Angeles County clients. DPH has partnered with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Sheriff's Department to develop a Vivitrol project for Assembly Bill 109 Co-Occurring Disorders (COD) Postrelease Supervised Persons (PSPs). Under this program, PSPs with opioid dependence are screened for eligibility for Vivitrol services. The initial Vivitrol injection is administered by DMH at the County jails and funded by the Sheriff's Department. Subsequent Vivitrol injections are then administered by DPH contracted providers.

In addition, DPH is partnering with Drug Court Treatment Teams to facilitate referrals to meet target goals for the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration Drug Court Enhancement Grant.

DPH will continue to increase provider awareness of Vivitrol availability as a billable medication under Medi-Cal. This includes training providers on Medi-Cal Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) and Medi-Cal eligibility. In addition, DPH will offer Vivitrol in-service training sessions for the Drug Court Treatment Teams.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:yc
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c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors